

## Message Text

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43

ORIGIN L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SS-15 EUR-12 SCA-01 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 JUSE-00 SEC-01 SSO-00 INRE-00

NSCE-00 /051 R

DRAFTED BY L/ARA:MGKOZAK

APPROVED BY L/ARA:DAGANTZ

ARA/PAN PMORRIS (DRAFT)

----- 067291

O R 141603Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

PANCAN GOV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PGOV, JM, PN, CS

SUBJECT: VESCO BOAT SEIZURE

1. DEPT OFFICERS DISCUSSED MATTER WITH PANAMANIAN DCM MAYO AUGUST 7 AND REQUESTED (A) THAT PANAMANIAN CONSUL IN MIAMI COOPERATE BY ANSWERING SEC'S QUESTIONS CONCERNING CIRCUMSTANCES OF SEIZURE OF VESSEL, AND (B) THAT GOP PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING VESSEL.

2. MAYO INFORMED DEPT AUGUST 13 THAT GOP IS PREPARED TO ASSIST IN ATTEMPTING TO LOCATE VESSEL. SHE STATED THAT VESSEL WAS NOT NOW IN PANAMANIAN WATERS AND THAT AT PRESENT TIME GOP HAS NO KNOWLEDGE AS TO ITS WHEREABOUTS. GOP HAS ISSUED ORDER TO DETAIN VESSEL SHOULD IT COME WITHIN THEIR JURISDICTION, AND WILL PROVIDE US ANY INFORMATION

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THEY MAY RECEIVE CONCERNING ITS WHEREABOUTS. WITH

RESPECT TO OUR REQUEST TO INTERVIEW PANAMANIAN CONSUL, GOP DECLINED ON GROUNDS THAT HE WAS ENGAGED IN THE EXERCISE OF A CONSULAR FUNCTION, THAT HE THEREFORE HAD IMMUNITY UNDER ARTICLES 43 AND 44 OF THE VIENNA CONVENTION, AND THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY CONSIDERED THAT WAIVER OF HIS IMMUNITY IN THIS CASE WOULD ESTABLISH A PRECEDENT ADVERSE TO PANAMA'S INTERESTS.

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3. DEPT HAS INFORMED SEC OF GOP RESPONSE. SEC STATES THAT IT HAS INFORMATION FROM RELIABLE SOURCES THAT VESSEL IS IN FACT IN PANAMANIAN WATERS AND THAT ITS RATHER DISTINCTIVE APPEARANCE IS BEING ALTERED. SEC WISHES TO DEFER ANY FURTHER REQUESTS OR ACTION WITH RESPECT TO INTERVIEWING PANAMANIAN CONSUL UNTIL ACCURACY OF INFORMATION CONCERNING PRESENCE OF VESSEL IN PANAMA CONFIRMED.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: GIVEN FACT THAT THERE WOULD SEEM TO BE VERY FEW SHIPYARDS IN PANAMA CAPABLE OF PERFORMING MAJOR MODIFICATIONS OF VESSEL, DEPT BELIEVES IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR EMBASSY OFFICER TO DISCRETELY VISIT SHIPYARDS ASAP TO DETERMINE IF ANY VESSELS RESEMBLING PATRICIA III ARE UNDERGOING REPAIRS OR MODIFICATIONS. SISC

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SHIP DETENTION, WELFARE & WHEREABOUTS, PATRICIA III, INVESTIGATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 AUG 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
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**Review Date:** 08 APR 2003  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** VESCO BOAT SEIZURE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINT, PGOV, JM, PN, CS, US, (VESCO, ROBERT)  
**To:** PANAMA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006